

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

EDITED BY FREDERICK & EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

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DEDICATION.

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK.

During the past week two large demonstrations have been held by the National Women's Social and Political Union. The first, on Saturday, July 25, was at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, and attracted a large number of people. Speeches were delivered from various points of vantage in the grounds, both in the afternoon and the evening, and were listened to by large and sympathetic crowds. The London Press seems to have been specially struck by the support which was accorded to the speakers by all those present in the grounds. A

large sale of literature and of colours was effected by members during the afternoon and evening, and a very decorative effect was produced by the banners which were exhibited on every side.

Woodhouse Moor, Leeds.

The second great demonstration was held in Leeds on Sunday, when about a hundred thousand people were present to listen to the speeches delivered from ten platforms on Woodhouse Moor. We reprint on another page extracts from some of the local papers, from which it will be seen that the demonstration was regarded as the largest ever held in that place, and that rowdyism and opposition were remarkable for their absence. It is interesting to note that one of the papers uses these words: "The scenes were remarkably orderly, and afforded a great contrast to what was recorded in other places." It is noteworthy that the local Press are always astonished to find the extraordinary sympathy and friendship of the crowd which they have been erroneously led to believe does not exist elsewhere. At every platform the resolution was heartily received, and the hands held up in opposition did not get into double figures.

The Queen's Hall.

The last of the Monday afternoon "At Homes" of the season was held at the Queen's Hall on Monday last, when a crowded audience listened to Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst. An appeal for funds for the by-election in Haggerston was rapidly responded to, and a sum of £150 was put together in the course of ten minutes. Mrs. Lawrence wished those of the members who were going away a first-rate holiday, and bade them come back ready for work in the autumn.

Mr. Gladstone and the Prisoners.

Cabinet Ministers have not been allowed to forget the Suffragettes during the past week. In Parliament Mr. Herbert Gladstone has been frequently questioned on the subject of the detention of the women in prison, and, answering Mr. Horniman on Wednesday, July 22, he showed that he is beginning to be moved by the criticism of members of the House of Commons, and has so far modified the prison treatment usually accorded to prisoners in the second division as to allow the women to have two periods of exercise in each day, and to a certain extent to do their work in association, instead of in solitary confinement. This concession, wrung from a reluctant Cabinet Minister, is important in the interest of humanity, and is in accordance with the natural instinct of justice, which dictates that political prisoners should not be treated in the same way as ordinary felons.

The Vote, and Nothing But the Vote.

From the point of view of the women, the one thing essential is that justice should be accorded to their sex as a whole, and there is no peace possible until the Cabinet recognise this fact by allowing the Bill for the enfranchisement of women to pass through all its stages. Until they do, those women will continue their agitation, and, whether the sentences passed upon them be long or short, and whether their imprisonment be rigorous or lenient, they will not in any way relax the efforts which will be directed towards their goal.

Other Cabinet Ministers.

Outside the House of Commons several Ministers have encountered the Suffragettes. On Friday, Lord Morley, as he was going down the river, was interviewed by two of the women, and presented with a copy of this paper, and on the same day a tandem was driven to Downing Street, and notices of Saturday's demonstration were placed in the letter-box of the Prime Minister and also in that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and handbills were distributed at various Government offices at Whitehall.

The Postmaster-General.

In Warrington, Mr. Sydney Buxton, on the occasion of his ceremony of opening the Post-office, sent for two of the Suffragettes, and urged them not to interrupt his meeting on the grounds that he was personally sympathetic with their cause. The women know too well the nature of joint Cabinet responsibility to be led away by this appeal.

Leicester and Bristol.

To-day a great demonstration is being held in Leicester, where Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Adela Pankhurst and others are speaking, and there will be five platforms. With this meeting will conclude the great demonstrations before the holiday. One of those already planned for September is the great meeting at Bristol on Clifton Downs on September 19, where a very large audience is expected, as Bristol is already showing itself highly sympathetic to the cause of the women.

The Haggerston By-Election.

The special feature of the work of the current week is the campaign in the Haggerston by-election, where a vacancy has occurred, owing to the death of Sir Randal Crèmer, the Liberal member. Here, as elsewhere, the Women's Social and Political Union pursues its regular and fixed policy of opposing the Government nominee. A knowledge of Parliamentary procedure shows this to be the only logical course. The experience of the attitude of individual members during the history of the suffrage campaign proves the valuelessness of any support which candidates may personally offer to women. Throughout the struggle, their professed sympathy has availed nothing, and on one important occasion, in the debate on the County Franchise Bill of 1884, their direct pledges were violated at the dictate of the leader of the Liberal Government. Under these circumstances, it is surprising that any women suffragists should still be found supporting Government candidates and entering into conflict with those who are leading the Votes for Women campaign.

N.W.S.P.U. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

An active campaign is being undertaken in the Haggerston by-election, and as the polling day is on Saturday, August 1st, all available speakers and workers are urgently wanted. The committee rooms are 21, Haggerston-road, and women are invited to come there and learn from Mrs. Drummond in what way they can best assist in the campaign.

The Prisoners' Release.

To-morrow, Friday, the first batch of prisoners sentenced for one month from July 1, will be released from Holloway. Friends are invited to meet them outside the gates of the prison at eight o'clock in the morning.

Tickets for brakes from Holloway to Queen's Hall may be obtained at 4, Clements Inn, price 9d. Application should be made at once.

It has been arranged to provide them with a complimentary breakfast at Queen's Hall at 9.15. Tickets for the breakfast, open to all friends and sympathisers, can be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, N.W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, W.C., price 2s. each. After the breakfast, speeches will be delivered by the ex-prisoners and others. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence.

Miss New and Mrs. Leigh, who were sentenced to two months' imprisonment on July 1, will be released from Holloway on Saturday morning, August 22, and those who are in prison for three months will remain in Holloway until Wednesday, September 16. Arrangements for welcoming these prisoners will be announced later.

The Demonstrations.

To-night a demonstration is taking place in Leicester, when there will be five platforms, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Nell Kenney, Mrs. Baines, and Miss Brook will speak. At Bristol a special demonstration is being arranged on the Clifton-Downs for Saturday, September 19. Miss Annie Kenney is already hard at work, and preparatory meetings are being held every day in some part of the city.

The "At Homes."

The last "At Home" of the season is being held to-night in the Portman Rooms, Dorset-street, from 8 to 10, when Miss Christabel Pankhurst will speak. During the month of August, as a large number of our friends will be away, it has been decided to suspend the "At Homes" both on Monday afternoon and Thursday evening, but they will be resumed in September in the Portman Rooms. On September 3, the first of the "At Homes" will be held on Thursday evening, in the Portman Rooms, Dorset-street, from 8 to 10, and on September 7, the first of the Monday afternoon "At Homes" will be held in Portman Rooms, Baker-street, from 4 to 6.

Albert Hall Meeting.

Arrangements are already being made for the autumn campaign of the National Women's Social and Political Union. A great meeting is to be held in the Albert Hall, on Thursday, October 29. Mrs. Pankhurst will be in the chair, and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe will address the meeting. Tickets are already on sale:—Amphitheatre stalls, 5s.; arena, 2s. 6d.; balcony and orchestra, 1s.; gallery and upper orchestra (unnumbered), 6d.; and boxes at various prices, can be obtained from the ticket secretary, National W.S.P.U., 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C. Application should be made early for tickets. Friends who are going away for their summer holidays are recommended to buy tickets before they go away, and are also urged to take tickets with them to sell to those whom they are likely to meet on their holidays.

Novelties in the Union Colours.

The latest novelty in the Union colours is a special belt and buckle, which is being sold at half-a-crown each. The buckle is a charming design taken from the picture of the Haunted House, and the belt is ribbon in the colours of the Union. The new ties, which were announced a few weeks ago, are already in great demand, and more than one repeat order has had to be given to the firm supplying them. They can be obtained at 1s. each, and are very charming in appearance. Plain ribbon in the colours of the Union can be obtained in two widths at 1s. and 9d. a yard, suitable for hat bands and waist belts. Badges in the colours, stamped with "Votes for Women," are 1d. each, and scarves are 2s. 11d. each. The great display of colours at the Earl's Court Exhibition was very remarkable, and attracted very considerable attention.

Photographs of the Hyde Park Demonstration.

At the Hyde Park Demonstration, on Sunday, June 21, one photographer took special photographs of each platform. These have been enlarged, and can be obtained, mounted, at 5s. each. They show very clearly, not only the speakers on the platform, but the dense crowd surrounding it. In ordering, please state the number of the platform which is required.

Newspaper Committee.

A special committee has been formed at 4, Clements Inn, to promote the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

The committee meets every Tuesday at 3 o'clock for the purpose of reporting progress and discussing future plans. Miss Vera Holme is acting as secretary. The work of the committee consists in organising the street sale of the paper by members of the Union; inducing newsagents to stock the paper and show the contents bill; arranging for the sale of the paper at public meetings; carrying out various schemes of advertisement.

Those willing to help the VOTES FOR WOMEN committee are urged to communicate with Miss Vera Holme. Work can be found for ladies who call at the office any morning in the week at 11 o'clock.

THE HISTORY OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

By SYLVIA PANKHURST. XVIII.—*Political Events of 1886.*

The Parliamentary Session of 1886 is, as we have seen, notable for the passing into law of the Infants Act, which gave the widowed mother the right to the custody and guardianship of her children. Another law tending to raise the status of married women which was passed in the same year was the Married Women's (Maintenance in Case of Desertion) Act. This Act gave a deserted wife the power to summon her husband before the magistrates, who, if they were satisfied that the husband was able to support his wife and family and had wilfully refused to do so might order him to pay to his wife a weekly sum not exceeding £2. The amount was to be fixed in accordance with the husband's income and any means of support that the wife might possess. It was only to be paid on condition of the wife remaining faithful to her husband. Before this time a deserted wife could make no claim upon her husband for maintenance. Only if she broke up her home and took her children into the workhouse could the parish authorities sue the husband for criminal desertion.*

In order to gain some idea of the number of women who would be enfranchised under the Bill to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women qualified to vote in municipal elections, Mr. Woodall moved in 1886 for a return of the municipal boroughs in Great Britain showing the number of persons on the Burgess' roll, distinguishing men from women. On this being granted it was found that in England and Wales the women electors ranged from 28 per cent. of the electorate in some towns to as low as 5 or 6 per cent. in others, the average being 16·8 per cent. In the Scottish burghs from 36 per cent. to 5 per cent. of the electors were women. All over Scotland the women municipal electors averaged 18 per cent. of the total.

The Parliament elected in July, 1886, was apparently more favourable to the question of women's suffrage than any that had gone before, for no fewer than 341 professed supporters were returned and only 136 declared opponents. Yet this great majority achieved nothing.

Mr. Woodall introduced the Women's Suffrage Bill early in the opening Session, but the Government gave notice that they needed all the time of the House, and that they should oppose all private members' Bills.

Mr. Lafone then asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Leader of the House of Commons, Lord Randolph Churchill), whether he would introduce a Bill to extend the electoral power which women already possessed to enable them to vote for members of Parliament. In reply to this Lord Randolph Churchill said that the question of conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon women had always been left to the enterprise of private members, and that, as it was more than probable that a great difference of opinion existed among members of the Cabinet upon this subject, it was not possible for the Government to take it up.

When Parliament re-assembled in the new year Lord Denman again introduced his Bill to give votes to women on the same terms as men, and on January 31 he moved its second reading.

Lord Salisbury now said that he had no desire to express any opinion upon the subject of women's suffrage, but that it was unusual for one House to undertake legislation for the purpose of altering the constitution of the other, and though it would not be beyond the power of the House of Lords to do so it would be to some extent a breach of Parliamentary etiquette. He, therefore, moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. This

motion was carried and, so, for the time being, the Bill was lost.

In 1884, when the County Franchise Bill had been before the House of Lords, Lord Denman had moved an amendment to include women. Lord Salisbury had then said that if brought forward as a separate measure he would support the principle embodied in that resolution. He could not support it as an amendment because he believed it would, if carried, endanger the whole Franchise Bill.

In spite of the contradictory nature of these statements, the Suffrage Societies appear to have taken Lord Salisbury's latter pronouncement to be absolutely final.

On June 27, a conference of Parliamentary friends of Women's Suffrage was held in the House of Commons. This conference, which was the first of its kind had been organised by Miss Becker and the Manchester and Central Societies. The invitations to the Members of Parliament who took part in it, were issued in the joint names of Mr. Wm. Woodall and Mr. J. W. Maclure. The conference decided to appoint a Parliamentary Committee of 71 members, with Mr. W. S. B. McLaren (L) and Captain Edwards Heathcote (C), to act as secretaries. A memorial to Mr. W. H. Smith (leader of the House of Commons) asking that Wednesday, July 20, should be left free for the discussion of the Women's Suffrage Bill, which had been set down for second reading on that day, was also adopted by the conference.

The memorial was presented on July 4, Mr. W. H. Smith having previously given notice to move that all Wednesdays should be taken for Government business during the remainder of the session. On the same day Mr. Woodall asked in the House of Commons that Wednesday, July 20, should be exempted from the operation of the Government's motion. Mr. W. H. Smith, however, refused to accede to this request, on the ground that if an exception were made in favour of Votes for Women he would be at once met by other similar demands.

Mr. Woodall then moved for an assurance that some other opportunity should be afforded for the discussion of women's suffrage, but Mr. Smith merely said that he would be happy to afford facilities for the discussion of this important question—if the state of public business permitted.

During the preceding two or three years an agitation for the prohibition of women's work upon the pit-brow had been growing up. This had been opposed by a counter agitation carried on by the pit-brow women themselves and others who supported their claim to be allowed the right to work. Matters came to a head when Mr. Burt and Mr. Atherley Jones gave notice to move an amendment to the Mines Regulation Bill which was intended to make the employment of women upon the pit-brow illegal.

Representatives of the pit-brow women now went up to the House of Commons in their working costume and the women suffragists prepared a memorial to Mr. H. Matthews, the Home Secretary. The memorial pointed out that it would be unjust in the extreme for a Parliament, in the election of which they had no voice, to interfere with the right of women to earn their own living, and it urged that no further attempt should be made to restrict their labour until women were enfranchised.

The result of all this was that when the Mines Bill came up before the House of Commons on June 22, the Home Secretary spoke against the restrictive amendment, whilst announcing that the question was to be left an open one, on which members might decide according to their own convictions. The Government tellers did not tell in the subsequent division, in which the House, by 190 votes to 114, decided not to interfere with the pit-brow women's right to work.

As an indication of the trend of public opinion on the question of special restriction upon women's labour at the time, it is interesting to note that Sir John Lubbock's Shop Hours Regulation Act, passed in 1886, which limits the hours during which young persons may be employed in or about a shop, is equal in its application both to boys and to girls.

This was probably due to the influence of the women suffragists who strongly opposed special restrictive legislation until they themselves had constitutional means of expressing their opinion thereon.

(To be Continued.)

* To this day a wife who is actually living with her husband can make no legal claim upon him for maintenance.

WORKING-CLASS GIRLS AND PUBLIC PLAYING FIELDS.

By JULIETTE HEALE.

Any individual with an observant eye and a reflective brain who, passing by our commons and public playgrounds during board-school holidays, has paused to watch the joyous throng of young life shouting and playing there, must have been struck by the remarkable fact that only one sex is ever represented. The sportive crowd is made up entirely of boys, the girls being conspicuous only by their absence. If one of the rising female generation happens to be discovered, the poor little creature is neither playing nor shouting—necessary healthful relaxations, both of them, in the development of the young. Her weak little arms are filled by a baby as big as herself, while two toddlers are clinging to her scanty little skirt.

A decree has lately been issued in France forbidding employers of child labour to allow girl workers under 14 years of age to carry a weight over 11 lbs. This is very proper. But what inspector, French or English, ever dreams of interfering when he sees a girl of 12 staggering under the weight of a 20-lb. baby? The poor infant suffers—constantly hitched up by the weary arms of the child nurse—and the little girl suffers still more—her arms dragged, her chest hollowed, her spine unnaturally bent back, to try and poise safely the overwhelming weight.

Men never dream that there is any ill in this most ordinary sight of our public playing grounds and mean streets. Girls must learn to nurse babies; it is the duty of girls to help their mothers; in fact, it never enters the illogical male mind that nursing a baby can be uncommonly hard work. There would be an outcry if an employer made the same child carry 20 lbs. of bread or meat on her back. Racked arms, an aching back, a weary brain, overstrain and premature anxiety—these "pleasures" fill up the working-class girl's hours of respite from school, while her brother is playing in the park or on the common, drawing in fresh vitality while hers is being steadily drawn off.

I was much struck lately by the observations of a gentleman when he was giving away prizes gained in a secondary school. The boys he admonished to play their games sturdily, in a manly spirit. The whole duty (and pleasure) of the girls, apparently, was summed up in his advice to them to learn to nurse, to cook, to scrub. He seemed to take it for granted that play—especially in the fresh air—was only needed by boys.

Some 40 years ago middle-class girls shared the fate still endured by their poorer little sisters. But the playing fields and organised games of our high schools have changed all that. Middle-class English girls have emancipated themselves from incessant tasks and a repression none the less cruel that it was declared to be "for their own good." Middle-class fathers now take it as a matter of course that their girls should have real play hours and plenty of exercise in the open air, just like their boys. And why not? Do horse-breeders let colts frisk while the fillies draw heavy carts? People breed horses far too scientifically for that.

The contrast of results is as great as the contrast of treatment meted out to the girls born in the two great classes which practically make up the British nation. In the middle classes, under the influence of just education and fair play hours, girls have developed enormously during the last quarter of a century. Larger and stronger, a hundred times more alert and intelligent, ambition and energy have evolved from these superior conditions. There are thousands of young women in Great Britain to-day who fully intend to make the best of their abilities; there are hundreds of middle-aged women—women who in girlhood had their hours and days of fierce, if repressed, resentment at their lot—who are equally determined that the younger female generation shall get due opportunities for mental and physical development.

Sufficient play hours, organised games in the fresh air, have, perhaps, been even more influential in breeding the evolution of the middle-class girl than the marked advance in

her education. Lack of play and a constant round of unending, dreary work, are responsible for the "downtrodden" condition of only too many a girl in the artisan class. When, after work, she sees her brother go off to his club for a "sing-song," for cricket, for skittles, while she has to mend (unpaid) that brother's clothes, to cook her father's supper, to mind her mother's babies, to do the family washing, &c., &c., it is not surprising if she grows up a listless, spiritless being, dimly conscious of a birth curse of degradation, sorrow, hopelessness.

It is a delicate matter to decide how far a generation may impose its own voluntarily undertaken burdens on the generation coming after it. The overworked mother, distracted by having to cook, to mend, to make, to scrub, to contrive, for a husband and a large family on a few shillings a week, naturally seeks aid from her children. The boy refuses or shirks; the more docile girl has to do his task as well as her own. And it is not only docility on her part; the girl is more pitiful, more kindly. "Poor, poor mother!" In how many gentle little hearts is the burden of this sad chant ever rising? So the girl does not insist on any play, and daily grows more abject, less intelligent, more hopeless, more content with her piteous wage, taking it as a matter of course that a well-mastered, paying trade is one of the blest privileges reserved for the male.

Women must take this matter in hand—all women. Our able women pioneers of freedom are hot on this subject, but the girls of the working class will sooner grow tall, intelligent, energetic, in the sun of prosperity if all women would exert their influence to remedy the gross injustice of making an artisan girl's life all work and no play. These poor girls are the daughters of mothers who have similarly suffered, who are even more downtrodden. The more fortunate women who go amongst the poor should take the mothers in hand, pointing out that even the poor little budding female—always put upon, often grossly misused—requires some fresh air, a certain small relaxation of unfettered play. It is not difficult to point out the contrast between the emancipated lad and his little galley-slave sister at, say, 14 years of age. The most ignorant, the most overtasked, mother in England will wistfully acknowledge it.

The Suffragist Prisoners.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, July 21, Mr. Lupton (Sleaford, Lib.) asked the Home Secretary if there was in the Prison Department any medical evidence to show that 22½ hours' solitary confinement out of every 24 hours is conducive to physical and mental health; and if not, would he order the discharge of all female political prisoners who are subject to such solitary confinement.

In reply Mr. Gladstone said that the prisoners had been specially visited by the medical inspector of prisons, and he found no reason to think that the health of any of them had suffered from the conditions of their imprisonment. He had, however, recommended that they should be allowed two periods of exercise instead of one, and this had been arranged for. They would also be allowed to work in association so far as this was found to be consistent with discipline.

Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate, Lib.) on Thursday asked the Secretary of the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the fact that the ladies now in prison for making demonstrations against the Government were, in default of finding sureties, suffering a heavier penalty than could have been inflicted if they had actually been found guilty of sedition, in view of the fact that by the Prisons Act of 1898, a person imprisoned for sedition or seditious libel must be treated as a first-class misdemeanant; and whether, in view of this circumstance, he would recommend the transference from the second division to the first of the ladies now in prison on account of their having made political demonstrations.

Mr. Gladstone: Persons found guilty of sedition are liable to imprisonment for two years, and must by statute be placed in the first division. As regards the prison treatment of these ladies, I must refer my hon. friend to my numerous previous answers upon this subject.

Mr. Byles (Salford, N., Lib.) asked the right hon. gentleman if he did not think that the punishment was unsuited to the offence. Had he not power to "make the punishment fit the crime"?

Mr. Gladstone had no further answer to make.

OUR POST BOX.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—In your issue of the 16th inst. you state (page 311) "some weeks ago the Geological Society took a poll of its Fellows in order to decide whether or no women should be eligible for fellowship; and decided on the contrary." As one of the Fellows who voted as a matter of course for the admission of women to the Society on equal terms to men, may I suggest in all courtesy that you must have been wrongly informed as to the result of the poll? Papers were sent out to the 870 Fellows of the Society, and answers were received from 477 Fellows. The first question asked was:—"Are you in favour of the admission of women to the Geological Society of London?"

The poll showed:—Yes, 342; No, 133; Not specified, 2; Total, 477.

The second question asked was:—"Are you in favour of the admission of women as Fellows or as Associates only?" The 342 in favour of admission voted:—As Fellows, 248; As Associates, 84; Not specified 10; Total 342.

The third question asked was:—"If there should not be a majority of those voting in favour of women as Fellows, are you in favour of their admission as Associates?"

The poll showed:—Yes, 304; No, 35; Not specified, 3; Total, 342.

I write as one who owes many of the beautiful things in life to women, and as one who cannot believe at all that any understanding man can have any real reason for refusing to them utter equality.

Yours,

RONALD DIXON.

46, Marlborough-avenue, Hull, July 18, 1908.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—In VOTES FOR WOMEN, No. 19, July 16, on page 311, it is written: "Now that the women's question is so prominently before the public, learned societies are beginning to discuss whether women can now be barred from their ranks. Some weeks ago the Geological Society took a poll of its Fellows in order to decide whether or no women should be eligible for fellowship, and decided in the contrary." May I point out three inaccuracies in this statement?

In the first place, many learned societies, and among them the Geological Society of London, have for several years been discussing not whether women can be barred, but how best they can be admitted; as you are doubtless aware, the Linnean Society two or three years ago obtained a new charter for the purpose. Women, of course, have always been admitted to full membership of the Zoological Society and of the Geologists' Association, and have also served on the Council of the Palæontographical Society. The numbers unfortunately are still few; only three women have read papers before the Geologists' Association, and it was on June 16 of the present year that a lady first read a paper in person before the Zoological Society.

In the second place, the poll of the Geological Society was not to decide whether women should be eligible for fellowship, but was in accordance with the words of the following resolution: "That a poll of all the Fellows of the Society resident in the United Kingdom be taken to ascertain whether a majority is in favour of admitting women to the society, and if so, whether as Fellows or as associates."

In the third place, the result of the poll was the exact contrary of what your paragraph leads one to believe. The facts are as follows:—870 voting papers were sent out, 477 answers received, and of these 342 were in favour of the admission of women to the society, while 248 were in favour of the admission of women to full fellowship, being a majority of 31.

It will be observed that this resolution was of a somewhat academic nature, and does not commit either the society or its council. Moreover, it gives the opinion only of Fellows residing in the United Kingdom. A further poll is now being taken to ascertain the opinion of Fellows non-resident in the United Kingdom.

Assuming that the results of this second poll are no less favourable than the first poll, it does not follow that women will be admitted to fellowship of the society in the near future. The difficulty is a legal one, arising out of the wording of the original charter. That charter was granted by George IV. to certain "of our loving subjects," and to "such other persons as shall be appointed and elected Fellows of the said society." The word "person" is used throughout the charter, and it appears that the legal mind applies the word "person" only to individuals of

the male sex. So long as this is the legal interpretation, it is open to any cantankerous misogynist who may be a Fellow of the society to take legal action for preventing the admission of women.

I hope that these facts, while showing that the geologists of this country form a more enlightened body than you seem to suppose, may also, by drawing attention to the extraordinary legal quibble, furnish another argument in favour of votes for women.

Yours,

July 24, 1908.

F. A. BATHER, F.G.S., F.Z.S.

[We thank our correspondents for their letters. We were aware of the original vote, but were misinformed with regard to the present position.—ED. "Votes for Women."]

THE ONLY WAY.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—The only way to increase the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN enormously is not to get one's regular supply from Clements Inn, but through as many different newsagents as possible, on strict condition that if we buy from them they display the poster. Now they won't, as a rule, do this if we simply order one or two copies. We must each make a little sacrifice for the cause. Go to the newsagents in your own neighbourhood, or where you are staying for your holidays, and present them with three copies and a poster. Say to them, "If you will exhibit this poster at your shop-door, I will guarantee you a sale of at least three copies a week, to be obtained by you through the wholesale houses, for a month or more." Tell them an attractive poster in three colours, like ours, brings new customers. At Barnes and Mortlake I have got five newsagents to exhibit the poster, and the sale has gone up accordingly. Why cannot the same be done in every town and village where there is a member of the N.W.S.P.U.?

Yours,

S. A. WILSON HORN.

THE NOTTINGHAM DEMONSTRATION.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—As an eye-witness of the Nottingham demonstration on the Forest, allow me to contradict in part the Press account of what took place. I had the pleasure of being on No. 4 platform occupied by one of the pioneers of the N.W.S.P.U. movement. I know that our gathering of six or seven hundred intelligent men and women listened with rapt attention to the able speech of Miss Pankhurst for an hour and a-half. We had only one disturbing chord, and that from a man who would persist in asking questions while Miss Pankhurst was speaking. With her usual courage she broke the thread of her discourse to answer him, and right nobly she defended the principles for which she was fighting. As each point fell from her lips it was received with applause, especially when comparing the Downing-street action with the Winchester riots, and the unequal administration of the law, showing how five strong men, for doing endless damage, were bound over to keep the peace, while two frail women received two months in Holloway for breaking two panes of glass. Cries of "Shame!" could be heard from all parts of that vast throng. I claim that we held a most successful meeting. When the resolution was put it was practically unanimous—only one dissident—and I am ashamed to say that was from a sister she was trying to help, all the men being on the side of freedom. A gang of rough lads, bent on a lark, came in rushes to each platform, but even these young souls were made to look ashamed, so forcible was our speaker's appeal, and I am sure the seed sown has fallen on fruitful soil. All honour to these noble women, who are giving out the best that is in them to help forward the evolution of their sex. I am proud to be a link in this great human chain, claiming a purer life for an unborn humanity. Miss Pankhurst fought a good fight for her sisters on Saturday, and I hope you will be able to find a corner in your valuable paper for a woman worker's point of view.

Yours,

P. WILKINSON.

1, Cromwell-road, Imperial Park, Beeston.

FOR THOSE IN PRISON.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

DEAR SIR,—It may interest some of your readers to learn that at a well-known church in the North-West of London the prayers of the congregation have been asked Sunday by Sunday for one of the members now undergoing a month's imprisonment. She was arrested at the Votes for Women Demonstration on June 30. Feeling as I do the deeply spiritual significance of the movement, it is encouraging to find that an ever-increasing number of church people are realising this fact.

Yours,

July 26.

LUCY CRICKMAY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Questions intended for answer in this column should be addressed to the Editors "Votes for Women," and specially marked "Answers to Correspondents."

21. *Do you think it probable that women will be employed to the same extent as they now are if men and women are paid equal wages for equal work?*

In certain branches of the cotton trade women are already receiving equal pay for equal work, and this has not had the effect of displacing them; on the contrary, it is recognised by employers that the work of women in this trade is equal, if not superior, to that of men.

Equal pay for equal work is likely first to be established in the case of women employed by the Government as teachers, Post Office servants, and the capacity of women for these particular occupations is so generally recognised that there will be little inducement to replace them by men workers.

In private employment the process of equalising women's pay will probably be more gradual, so that hardship is not likely to occur. The reason why at the present employers prefer men to women is not so much that the men are more efficient workers, as that women are undervalued in consequence of their political and social inferiority. The enfranchisement of women will readjust matters, and will lead employers not always to engage the services of men, but to secure the best available worker, whether man or woman.

22. *If a political offence is committed at the same time as a non-political offence by the same person, ought the political offence to make any difference in the punishment awarded for the non-political offence?*

It is not the character of the act committed which determines whether the offence is political or not. It is the motive of the offender which decides the matter. If an offence forms part of, or is incidental to, a political disturbance, and is done in the belief that it promotes the end in view, then it is political. By the Prison Act of 1898 a person imprisoned for sedition or seditious libel must be treated as a first-class misdemeanant. Thus, as a legal correspondent to the "Manchester Guardian" points out, by the spirit, if not the letter, of the Prisons Act a grave political offence stands in a different category from that in which other crimes stand.

23. *Don't you think that the stone-throwing has retarded the progress of the movement?*

During the time which has elapsed since the demonstration of June 30, in connection with which stone-throwing took place, the movement has made marked progress, and this fact affords a conclusive answer to the question put by our correspondent.

24. *In the event of women being given the Parliamentary vote, could they be returned to Parliament by the electors in the absence of a special Bill giving to women the privilege of sitting in the House of Commons?*

The political disability of women in the matter of voting in local and Parliamentary elections, and sitting on local authorities or in the House of Commons, rests upon the judicial decision given in the case of *Chorlton v. Lings* of 1868, to the effect that women are by the common law debarred from exercising any public function. Each bit of political power which women now possess (the right to vote in local elections and sit on local governing bodies) has had to be separately granted to them by Act of Parliament, and each new right will have to be given to them in the same manner. The Women's Enfranchisement Bill, now before the House of Commons, aims at granting them the right of Parliamentary voting, and it is likely that the

judges would decide that a further Act of Parliament would be necessary to render them eligible to the House of Commons.

25. *Is it true that the Women's Bill now before Parliament will give the vote to "ladies" rather than to properly called working women?*

The object of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill now before Parliament is to admit women to the Parliamentary franchise on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. The immediate effect of the measure will be to enable women to vote under the Ownership, Householder, Lodger, University, and Service Franchises. As a consequence, about one and a quarter million women will be enfranchised, of which (according to the Independent Labour Party) over 80 per cent. will be working women. Thus it will be seen that the Bill gives more votes to working women than it does to women of the prosperous classes.

[We are obliged to hold over answers to some of our correspondents till next week.—ED. VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

A By-Election Query.

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

You assist Parliamentary candidates opposed to the present Government, even though they be against women's suffrage. Supposing you were to fill the House of Commons with such men, none of whom were pledged to support our claim; what then? It is held by the Women's Social and Political Union that they have roused the country. That is true; but a pursuance of the policy of always against the Government might end in most fatal results for the cause of women's enfranchisement. The National Union is blamed for being too slow, but in comparing the policy of the two organisations one cannot help feeling that while much is to be said for both, the slower may also be the surer, as they have mapped out a series of questions from which the Parliamentary candidate cannot escape. The Women's Social and Political Union leave the individual members free, and they, after all, in bulk, form the Government. The present Government ought to give us the franchise—cannot, in fact, avoid doing so unless they be dishonourable men.

I should be glad to have an elucidation of these difficulties, as there has arisen in our midst a crisis caused by the difference in the policy of the two unions.

Yours,

ELIZ. BRADBURY.

Experience shows that no practical result follows upon the election of pledged supporters of Woman Suffrage. In 1884 the House of Commons contained enough professing friends to secure the adoption of the women's franchise amendment to the County Franchise Bill; but these pledges were broken and the amendment defeated. At the present time a majority of the House of Commons is pledged to Woman Suffrage. Yet the Women's Enfranchisement Bill having passed the second reading makes no further progress. The reason for the non-success of the movement in the past is the refusal of successive Governments to deal with the matter. In order to compel Government action, all Government nominees must now be opposed, and their individual pledges, being valueless, must be disregarded. There is little danger of the return of avowed opponents, as it is the exception (since the new active campaign began) to find any candidate declaring against votes for women. But just as private members can do little to help, so they can do little to hinder our cause, and therefore the election of an opponent would not be too big a price to pay for a Government defeat.

SUFFRAGE DAY AT EARL'S COURT.

Brilliant sunshine, large holiday-making crowds in the best of spirits, loyal co-operation on the part of Exhibition authorities, and the indefatigable exertions of speakers and stewards combined to make Saturday's demonstration one of the pleasantest ever held in the history of the movement.

The picturesque setting of the six platforms, distributed so as to catch the unwary at all points, was something quite unique, and one had only to pay a flying visit to each to be convinced that the tide of popular feeling is running high in favour of the Suffragettes.

No more significant sign of this could be instanced than the fact that thousands of people on a summer evening, impervious to the many attractions of the Hungarian Exhibition, gathered round the speakers at the bandstands and elsewhere. That they came to hear what the women had to say there could be no doubt, for there was a complete absence of anything in the nature of interruption. Perhaps the biggest crowd gathered round Miss Christabel Pankhurst's platform in the Western Gardens, but those round Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Annie Kenney in the Imperial Court, and Miss Mary Gawthorpe at the Wheel of Avernus ran it very close, while at times one could hardly get through the Hungarian Street, where Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Martel, Mrs. Massy, and Miss Brackenbury held the field for 2½ hours, including afternoon and evening meetings. Needless to say, "General" Drummond's flotilla was immensely popular at both meetings, reminiscent as it was of her famous raid by water on the House of Commons last month. Her boat bore, among other decorations, a conspicuous notice: "Cabinet Ministers specially invited."

The Ubiquitous Suffragette.

The Suffragette was everywhere! It was impossible to go a couple of yards without meeting one or more of her in full regalia, scarf, or other display of the green, purple, and white. She sold literature, advocated VOTES FOR WOMEN with a large poster in the colours, and engaged in long and animated discussions with the unbeliever whenever he came out into the open. The only place where she was not, according to the sou-westered gentleman at the pit brow, was down the coal mine, a place of safety, it would appear, even for Cabinet Ministers! And this only because she had no time for side-shows, and even the "Haunted Castle" only suggested to her mind that other "Haunted House" at Westminster.

The display of banners greatly contributed to the picturesqueness of the already picturesque grounds. Not only on platforms, but on restaurants, over gateways, and buildings, there floated the watchwords of the Union, while the Hungarian Street was for the time being transformed into a propagandist centre. Here, too, Greek met Greek in debate. Long after Miss Brackenbury and Mrs. Massy had descended from their quaint rostrum (and at 5.40 the former was still addressing the large audience which had given Mrs. Pankhurst a noticeably sympathetic hearing) crowds of interested listeners gathered round Miss Mackenzie and others who were engaged in answering the objections of opponents down in the arena.

Bon Mots from Some of the Speakers.

Mrs. Pankhurst:

"We have got it all planned out, and we want the Government to understand that the nuisance will continue until they accede to our demand."

"That women can be imprisoned in the twentieth century as men were in the seventeenth and eighteenth argues something rotten in the State."

"We are going to strike a blow at the Government, in order to bring pressure to bear; it will have to mend its ways. We have done pretty well up to now." (Applause.)

"I understand that the Haggerston By-election is to be cut short; it is to be all over in a week. You can do a great deal in a week!"

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence:

"What do our colours mean? Well, white stands for purity in private and public life. Sometimes when I have been speaking to crowds of people, men especially, in the East-End of London, I have been told to go home and do the washing.

That is just what women want to do! Other things besides clothing want washing—things in politics, for instance, are far too dirty at present! They need women to go in and clean things up a little bit."

"Green is the colour of hope, and the emblem of spring, and it speaks to us of the new hope that has entered into the world with the woman's movement, and of the spring that has awakened in women's hearts."

"Purple, as everyone knows, is the royal colour. It stands for the royal blood that runs in the veins of every suffragette, the instinct for freedom and for dignity. In the blood of the anti-suffragists we suspect there must be some hereditary taint of servility or subjection, which makes them ready to accept the present humiliating position of women in the Constitution of their country."

Miss Christabel Pankhurst:

"We are asking for what is just, and when people ask for justice in this country, they get it—in time!"

"If we hadn't made ourselves a nuisance to Cabinet Ministers, we shouldn't have got on as we have done."

"When you put up a good fight for a thing, you make other people desire that you should get it."

"Men have not got all the intelligence and all the political sense—they have only got half of them; and until women have the vote one half of the available resources of intelligence in this country is being thrown away."

Miss Annie Kenney:

"You men and women who are supposed to live in a Christian country, and to defend the fatherless and widow, why do you let women work twelve to fourteen hours a day for a wage of only a few pence?"

"I know what it is for women to work in a hot, stifling factory side by side with the men at the weaving sheds, and then to go home and have the housework to do. And merely because they are women they have no voice at all in the laws they as well as the men have to obey. In justice to the children they ought to develop the best and highest in order to bring forth a strong and intelligent race." (Applause.)

"Your political education never began until you were politically free."

"Why do you send women to prison on the eve of their confinement, to bring forth children behind prison bars? It's not fair. Why do you send children to prison with criminals waiting for the Assizes? You are to blame. Is prison the place for old men and women over 70?"

"When the magistrate told me he would treat me very severely, and teach me a lesson by sending me to prison, he gave me one of the best lessons in my life. If we do nothing else when we get the vote, we shall sweep away the abuses of our prison system."

Mrs. Martel:

"Ours is a religious work; we have the same objects in view as religion—the putting down of tyranny and injustice and oppression."

"Our object is to lift humanity out of the slough of despond."

Miss Mary Gawthorpe:

"In answer to the question, 'How many women will use the vote when they get it?' Sir, I can't guarantee as to what your British women will do, but I can tell you what your British sisters did in New Zealand and Australia; the granting of the franchise raised the men's voting in the first year from 57 per cent. to 76 per cent., and the election returns, only received the week before last, prove that a greater proportion of women voted than men at the last election."

Mrs. Drummond:

"If you want to know anything about the movement, read VOTES FOR WOMEN. I ask you men not to come in when the fight is over, but come now!" (Hear, hear.)

Miss Brackenbury:

"Supposing we could outline the political history of the last eighty years thus:—1832, the Reform Bill; 1867, the People; 1884, the Agricultural Labourer; and 1908, the Women!" (Applause.)

The National Women's Social & Political Union.

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Committee:

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Constitution.

OBJECTS.—To secure for women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

METHODS.—The objects of the Union shall be promoted by—

1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government candidate, and independently of all other candidates.
4. Vigorous agitation upon lines justified by the position of outlawry to which women are at present condemned.
5. The organising of women all over the country to enable them to give adequate expression to their desire for political freedom.
6. Education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates, distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence, and deputations to public representatives.

MEMBERSHIP.—Women of all shades of political opinion who approve the objects and methods of the Union, and who are prepared to act independently of party, are eligible for membership. It must be clearly understood that no member of the Union shall support the candidate of any political party in Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the parliamentary vote.

The Women's Social and Political Union are asking for votes for women on the *same terms* as they are possessed by men.

They are not asking for the vote for every woman, but that a woman shall not be refused a vote simply because she is a woman.

The Women's Social and Political Union claim that a simple measure, giving the vote to women on these terms, shall be passed this Session.

"IT'S WOMEN FOR WOMEN NOW."

Someone began to interrupt while one of our speakers was addressing a large crowd of men and women in the open air. "Be quiet!" said a working woman to the disturber. "It's women for women now, and we are going to stand by each other."

That is the new spirit everywhere manifest to-day. You see it, especially at the time of a by-election. It

is as the friend of woman first and foremost that the Women's Social and Political Union enters the field there. And without very much explanation the women in the constituency, and especially the working women, seem to recognise this at once. "Nobody took any trouble to teach us politics till you came," they say. "We women have never been taken any notice of before." Election candidates are far too occupied with the men, whose vote they want to get, to have any time to spare in remembering that there are women in the world who have their special grievances—their special wrongs to be redressed. Politicians have entirely neglected the political education of the women. We have to begin at the beginning, we have to teach women the A B C of politics. We find them very apt pupils, quick to seize and to understand every point.

The women of the country are deeply dissatisfied with their position. They stand at the very bottom of all—however miserable the lot of the most wretched and poverty-stricken man, there is always one being in the world more miserably placed than himself, and that is the woman who stands in nearest relationship to him.

Women and girls are forced to go into factories and workshops in order to earn their living. They have to work longer hours than men, their conditions of labour are worse, and their wages are lower.

The average wage of the working girls in Haggerston, for instance, is about seven shillings a week. In times of special distress, brought about by unemployment, employment schemes are started to help men. The women are left out. During the last fifty years, while the wages of men have been steadily rising, the wages of women have either remained stationary or have gone down. The dirtiest and most unpleasant work that has to be done in the world is done by women. The so-called sweated trades are women's trades. Women who are left as widows have to earn the living of the family, and look after the little ones, cook, and wash, and mend for them, nurse them when they are sick, and play the part of father and mother as well. They become the home workers, who get paid less than a penny an hour for their work.

From early morning till late into the night they are working for the miserable pittance of five shillings a week. If the woman placed in this position takes outdoor relief, for the sake of her children, then she forfeits her right to her old age pension when she becomes an old woman. Women are beginning to realise that terrible evils like these will never be touched until the weapon for self-defence that the men have used for so many years is placed in their hands. They are beginning to see that the helplessness of women is not only an evil for themselves, but a curse to the country and a great wrong to the children. If you want to realise the terrible necessity of our Votes for Women campaign come to Haggerston. If you want to understand what the Women's Movement means, come and see for yourself what it means in one of the poorest districts of the East End of London.

Emmeline Pethick Lawrence.

WHY WE FIGHT THE GOVERNMENT AT HAGGERSTON.

A Parliamentary vacancy having occurred at Haggerston, the Women's Social and Political Union is at work in the constituency in order to prevent the election of the Liberal candidate. The reason for this attitude is that the present Government refuse to grant votes for women.

When the militant Suffragists first began their attack upon the Government, it was thought impossible that they could influence votes. A little reflection must, however, have shown the incredulous that the opposition of this determined band of women is necessarily dangerous to the prospects of Liberal candidates. It is a long time since it was first recognised that the work of women can affect election results. The formation of the Primrose League and the Women's Liberal Federation, and a similar association of women in connection with the Labour Party, are evidence that the Parliamentary candidates value the assistance of women. It is generally admitted that the members of the Women's Social and Political Union are even greater adepts in the art of electioneering than the women members of the Party organisations. It is now some months since the "Morning Post" special election correspondent wrote of our members as follows:—"The Suffragists are the politicians of the election. . . . The organisation of the Suffragists is as good as their political insight. . . . Their staying power, judging them by the standard of men, is extraordinary. By taking afternoon as well as evening meetings, they have worked twice as hard as the men. They are up earlier, they retire just as late. Woman against man, they are better speakers, more logical, better informed, better phrased, with a surer instinct for the telling argument." Since these words were written, methods have been perfected, workers have gained added experience, resources are greater.

* The Interest in Votes for Women.

The efforts of skilful and earnest opponents must necessarily influence votes, even if their cause appealed less to the public for its own sake than does the proposal to grant votes to women. The popularity of that cause is beyond all doubt. Votes for women arouses more interest than any of the other political questions of the day. It finds supporters among members of all political parties. Meetings to demand votes for women are more largely attended than any others. The meeting in Hyde Park on June 21st was many times greater than that held in support of the Government's Licensing Bill. Demonstrations at Manchester, Leeds, and elsewhere, have surpassed in size and enthusiasm any political demonstration ever before held in those towns.

At the beginning of the present active campaign, some prejudice was inevitably aroused by the use of militant

methods, but this is almost a thing of the past, and the championship and sympathy of the public is being more and more roused by the continuous agitation for Votes for Women.

At every by-election our object is to raise Woman Suffrage to the position of chief issue, and to do so becomes easier every day. The Fiscal question, the Licensing Bill, and the Education Bill are the other questions now to the fore. Women's enfranchisement is not only more important than these, but it makes a stronger appeal to the sympathy and imagination of the people. To divert the attention of the electors from the questions submitted to them by the political parties to Votes for Women is therefore by no means a difficult task.

A Formidable Foe.

That the candidates and their agents regard the Women's Social and Political Union as a formidable enemy is shown in many ways. Liberal candidates hasten to declare themselves supporters of woman suffrage. Great efforts are made to get the support of a large band of Liberal women, and women speakers are much more frequently to be heard on the platforms of Liberal candidates than used to be the case. The more unscrupulous supporters of the Liberal candidates assiduously spread the false report that their opponents are financed by the Conservative Party. These discreditable tactics, formerly employed by the Liberals against the Labour Party, have now been brought into use against the women's movement. However, it proves impossible to hinder our progress in the constituencies, and the only resource now available for candidates and agents is to call upon the leaders of the Liberal Party to carry the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. The wisest and most earnest among the Liberal electors are anxious that the Government shall take this course, and in order to force the hand of their leaders, they are prepared to vote against Liberal candidates at by-elections. The only mandate which the Liberal leaders will obey is that which is given at the ballot-box. The defeat of their nominee at the by-election not only shows them that in that particular constituency they have lost the support of the electors, but goes also to prove that in the country, as a whole, they are unpopular. In short, it is impossible for any Government to maintain its prestige in face of repeated by-election defeats. When the Party leaders realise that such defeats occur because the electors are supporting the women of the country in their claim to the franchise, they will bring their policy into harmony with popular feeling by carrying the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, unless their objection to woman suffrage is stronger than their instinct of self-preservation, in which case no Suffragist will regret their disappearance from office.

It will be noticed that the anti-Government policy above described takes no account of the personal opinions held by Government candidates on the subject of Woman Suffrage. No matter how strongly the Liberal candidate

may declare himself in favour of Votes for Women, the W.S.P.U. opposes him. This is because we realise that those proposals which appear on the candidate's election address, but do not form part of the official programme of the Government, will not become law. Before Woman Suffrage or any other important measure can be carried, it must first be taken up by the Government. The problem which women Suffragists have had to solve is how to compel the Government to deal with Votes for Women. Some Suffragists pin their faith to rank and file Members of Parliament, who, they think, will attempt with success to induce the Government to act. Accordingly, at by-elections, these ladies support that candidate, no matter to what party he belongs, who appears the most friendly to their cause. The weakness of such a policy is obvious. Most of the men already in the House of Commons are pledged to Woman Suffrage, but they either cannot, or will not persuade the Government to grant Woman Suffrage, and Mr. Lloyd George, addressing a deputation at Glasgow some months ago, stated that their pledges made cannot be expected to result in legislation.

It is, therefore, idle to suppose that Votes for Women can be won merely by adding to the number of rank and file Members of Parliament pledged to support the cause. It is not in that way that reforms are initiated. A Member of Parliament does not enter the House of Commons for the purpose of reforming and reconstructing the policy of his leaders. His duty is supposed to be to support them, and to assist them in carrying out their programme. Very few are the Liberal Members who will speak and vote against the Government, and very rare are the occasions on which they will do so. The necessary pressure must be brought to bear from outside the House of Commons. The women who claim votes, aided by the electors who support that claim, must oppose the Government at by-elections.

Candidates who stand in the name of the Government need not think to shield themselves from attack by declaring in favour of women's enfranchisement. The only valid test of their friendship is a refusal to be the candidate of the Government unless the vote is granted to women. If, on the other hand, they are ready to sacrifice their woman suffrage convictions by becoming the nominee of the present Government, then they can hardly be surprised if they are made to suffer for their leaders' misdeeds.

In Haggerston.

The Liberal candidate at Haggerston seeks to parry the attack of the Women's Social and Political Union by writing in his election address of its members:—

"The brave record of their deeds during the past 2½ years is the best witness to their sincerity and zeal, and calls for the heartiest message of encouragement which you have power to send them."

This audacious attempt on the part of Mr. Warren to confuse the issue and to profit by the sacrifice made necessary by the unjust attitude of his own leaders will meet with the failure it deserves. The people of Haggerston are not so much wanting in political sense as he hopes, and they will understand that the only way in which they can encourage the women who are fighting for political liberty is to vote against the Government nominee.

Christabel Pankhurst.

PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

Women and Agriculture.

A most interesting exhibition of farm and garden produce was held recently in the Royal Botanic Gardens, under the auspices of the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural Union. Perhaps the largest exhibit was from the Swanley Horticultural College. The fruit, vegetables, and preserves shown by this institution were specially admired. Other noteworthy exhibits were from the Hollybush Nursery—which sent some specially fine roses—and the Women's Gardening Association, while there was an exceedingly good collection of dairy produce, and an attractive display of home-made jams, jellies, marmalades, and bottled fruits.

Honour for a Nurse.

The King has just conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross on Miss Elizabeth Annie Wildman in recognition of her special devotion and competency in connection with her nursing duties in India. Miss Wildman is lady superintendent of Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India.

Women's Suffrage in Denmark.

A new Suffrage Society has recently been started in Denmark. Its aim is—"On the foundation of the Christian faith, to encourage men and women to take an active part in promoting the political franchise of women; and by means of lectures, reading circles, &c., to enable the women to use the franchise in the right way when the time comes." Many of the members of this new society are workers in home and foreign missions and in temperance associations.

Indian Women Scholars.

Higher education for women is making slow but steady progress in India. At the last convocation of the Bombay University, two Brahmin women took their degree. For the first time in the history of the Madras University two Hindu women took degrees. In another university—that of Malabar—a woman (the co-editor of a Malayan literary journal) has just obtained her B.A. in languages, and at the same place a woman has passed the recent First Arts examination.

Hindu men are encouraging the women in their ambitions, and fully realise that the future hope of their people lies in their awakening.

Woman as Gas Manager.

A young Irish girl, Miss Ina G. Richmond, has lately been appointed manager of the Great Magherafelt Gas Works at Dublin. Miss Richmond is the first woman to be appointed to such a position, and Irish women are justly proud of her. She was originally in the Civil Service, and became an expert in telegraphy.

"The Early Word Catches the Vote."

The "Daily Mirror" in the course of its report on the Haggerston by-election says:—

Although the campaign only opened yesterday, it is clear that this is going to be a woman's election.

Of course, the militant Suffragists are in the division. Indeed, they were the first in the field, and, on the principle that the early word catches the vote, they actually held two meetings on Sunday. They were out again at six o'clock yesterday morning, in order to set their committee room in order, and at eight o'clock they were addressing a breakfast meeting of men.

At the last Suffragette "At Home" before the vacation, held yesterday at Queen's Hall, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence made an appeal for £150 with which to carry on the campaign at Haggerston, and this sum was subscribed in less than ten minutes.

Friday will be a gala day. About two dozen Suffragettes will be released from Holloway, and after a breakfast they will be taken in trucks to Haggerston, and driven round in triumph to the accompaniment of a brass band.

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HAGGERSTON BY-ELECTION.

Conservative Hon. R. E. C. Guinness
 Liberal Mr. Walter Warren.
 Social Democrat Mr. Herbert Burrows.

The figures at the last election were as follows:—Mr. W. R. Cremer (Lib.) 372;
 Hon. R. E. C. Guinness (Con.) 2371.

Polling Day:—Saturday, August 1.

Special Meetings.

(A large number of additional meetings are being arranged.)

Thursday, July 30.—Ridley-street, Open-Air Meeting, 7.30.

" " Downham-road, "

" " Haggerston-road, "

Friday, July 31.—Ridley-street, "

" " Downham-road, "

" " Haggerston-road, "

The speakers at these meetings will be Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, Miss Brae, and others.

Committee Rooms: 21, Haggerston-road.

Owing to the death of Sir Randal Cremer, a vacancy has occurred in the Haggerston Division. Three candidates are in the field, and the contest is to be a short and sharp one. In order that the election campaign may not interfere with the holiday the date of polling has been hurried through, and takes place on Saturday next.

Here, as in other constituencies, the Union are fighting against the Government because they realise that it is only the Government which has power to concede their enfranchisement. They are not concerned with the promises and expressions of support which are received from private members, but it is interesting to notice that here, as elsewhere, since we entered the field and adopted this sound line of electioneering policy, the Liberal candidates have been fain to express themselves in sympathy with our cause. In the present instance Mr. Warren has inserted a clause in his election address in the course of which he states he is in favour of the extension of the franchise to women, and that "the brave record of their deeds during the past 24 years is the best witness to their sincerity and zeal, and calls for the heartiest message of encouragement which the electors of Haggerston have power to send them." We gladly recognise this statement as a tribute to effectiveness of the work which we have done, but knowing that Mr. Warren will be quite powerless to render us any assistance, however anxious he might be to do so if he were returned to the House of Commons, we are not in the slightest moved from our course of opposition by this statement.

Meetings in the Constituency.

One of our places of meeting on Sunday was at the Downham-road, and the attitude of the audience, nearly all of whom were working men and women, was distinctly friendly. On Monday a further series of meetings was held.

In the evening Miss Christabel Pankhurst held a meeting at the corner of Trafalgar-road and Haggerston-road, and a crowd of about a thousand people listened attentively while she explained the policy of the Union, and why it was necessary to oppose the nominee of the Liberal Government, and a large number of election addresses of the N.W.S.P.U. were distributed to the audience.

On the same evening Mrs. Pethick Lawrence addressed a large number of people in the Kingsland-road, and a number of questions were asked as to the nature of the suffrage demanded by the Union and as to the opposition to Mr. Warren. After listening to a full answer to these questions, the men and women in the audience expressed themselves thoroughly satisfied and convinced that what the Union was asking was thoroughly reasonable, and that the women were deserving of support.

Mrs. Pankhurst held a large crowd at the fire station in the Kingsland-road for nearly two hours. Very great interest was shown, and a desire was expressed to hear more of the movement and what was being done.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Shoreditch, on Tuesday evening.

The following address has been issued by the National Women's Social and Political Union, and signed by Mrs. Pankhurst on behalf of the Union:—

TO THE PEOPLE OF HAGGERSTON.**What do we mean by Votes for Women?**

We mean that we want women who pay rates and taxes like the men voters to have the vote.

Men who are owners, householders, or lodgers, are allowed to vote, and women who are owners, householders, or lodgers, ought to have the vote too.

This would mean that about one and a-quarter million women would have the vote as compared with seven and a-half million men who have it; that is to say, there would be about one woman voter to every six men voters.

The majority of this one and a-quarter million women voters would be working women.

It will be asked whether married women would have the vote, and the answer is that if the house is in the wife's name she will have the vote, and if the house is in the husband's name he will have the vote.

We do not expect a vote for every woman, because votes are not given to every man.

Why we want the Vote.

Because taxation without representation is tyranny, and if women are compelled to pay taxes they ought to have votes.

Because if women have to obey laws they ought to have a voice in deciding what the laws shall be.

Because Parliament is now discussing such questions as the care of babies, the education of children, the work of women in factories, and women's opinion on these matters ought to be expressed at the polling booth.

Because until women get the vote nothing will be done to raise their wages. Women voters in Australia and New Zealand have been able to do away with sweating, and women voters could do the same in this country.

What we are doing to get the Vote.

We are holding hundreds of meetings. The meeting in Hyde Park on Sunday, June 21, was the biggest political gathering ever known. In various parts of London, and in Manchester, Leeds, and other big towns, there have been great votes for women demonstrations.

We give away thousands of leaflets, and sell thousands of books, pamphlets, and our weekly paper, *VOTES FOR WOMEN*.

We make protests similar to those men had to make before they got the vote—at Cabinet Ministers' meetings, and at the House of Commons. For doing this more than 260 women have been arrested and imprisoned, and at the present time women are in prison for the vote.

Who is against Votes for Women?

The Liberal Government are opposed to votes for women. This means that they are false to their principles, for they profess to believe that taxation and representation should go together. When we hold peaceful meetings the Government take no notice, and when we send deputations to see them, the women are arrested and sent to prison.

How Haggerston can help us?

The people of Haggerston can help us by defeating the candidate put forward by the Liberal Government.

The men must vote against him.

The women must work against him.

The Government must be taught that unless they give votes to women their candidate will not be elected.

The Liberal candidate says that he personally is in favour of votes for women, but this is what 420 members already in Parliament said before they were elected. Now that they are safely in the House of Commons, they do nothing for the women's cause, and they never will do anything until the Government give them a lead.

Therefore, the Government must be made to take up votes for women, and the only way to get them to do this is to keep all Liberal candidates out of Parliament until the Women's Bill is carried.

The Government will try to fight this election on the Licensing Bill and Free Trade, but we ask the electors to put

Votes for women first.

The Votes for Women Bill means trusting the people and giving representation to those who pay taxes. It means better laws for the women, the children, and the homes of England. What is the Licensing Bill compared to this?

The fiscal system cannot be touched until after the next General Election, so at this by-election the Free Trade electors are free to help the women by voting against the Government candidate.

In opposing the Government we are acting quite independently of every political party. We are not against the Liberals because they are Liberals, but because they are the party in power, and if there were a Conservative Government in power we should work against them unless they gave us the vote.

For the sake of political liberty women are fighting a hard battle against the Government. The electors of Haggerston are called upon to say on whose side they are. We believe they are against the Government, and for the women.

ELECTORS OF HAGGERSTON!

Support the Women in their fight for political liberty. Vote against the Government as a sign that Women must have the Vote.

THE SUFFRAGETTE AND THE DRESS PROBLEM.

It is not so very long ago that, in the popular mind, the woman who wanted the vote figured as that extremely unpleasant person, a "frump." For this notion possibly we have the popular Press to blame; and no more striking evidence of the change which has come over those responsible for the illustrated papers can be imagined than the "Punch" cartoon, which we reproduced, by kind permission of the proprietors, in our issue of July 16. In "Ulysses and the Steam Sirens," Mr. Linley Sambourne shows us three Suffragettes in a steam launch, each a daintily drawn figure, one in a blouse and skirt with a picture hat, the second in a "kimono" frock, and the third in University cap and gown. Compare with this a certain drawing published by our contemporary—we will not say on what occasion—showing the police struggling with impossible dummies in elastic-sided boots and black cotton "Auntie" gloves!

The Suffragette of to-day is dainty and precise in her dress; indeed, she has a feeling that, for the honour of the cause she represents, she must "live up to" her highest ideals in all respects. Dress with her, therefore, is at all times a matter of importance, whether she is to appear on a public platform, in a procession, or merely in house or street about her ordinary vocations.

A prominent feature of the great Demonstration in Hyde Park on June 21 was the fact that white dresses predominated, thus enhancing the value of the colours on banners and badges, and any one with an artist's eye must have enjoyed the spectacular effect of the seven processions, white, purple, and green, against the green of the park trees, and with the blue of a summer sky above. This result could not have been obtained without the individual co-operation of each of the demonstrators; and on subsequent occasions, at Earl's Court and elsewhere, it has become recognised that, when wearing the regalia, the Suffragette dons a white dress.

Practical Hints.

But whatever the colour chosen, the modern Suffragette takes good care of the style and cut. Some women are clever enough to make many of their own dresses, but—especially in these strenuous times—there is often no time for this, and readers will find, when looking through their wardrobes and millinery, that the firms mentioned below are worthy of a visit.

Some specially dainty wearing apparel is being shown by Madame Elizabeth, at 45, South Molton-street, W., and although this firm caters chiefly for juvenile wearers, we are authorised to state that, during the sale, which extends throughout August, dresses will be made at a reduced cost. Our representative was shown a particularly pleasing frock in white Ramie (for which the firm are agents), with a broad band of blue as an edging to the square-cut neck and kimono sleeves. This, of course, could be carried out in any colour—e.g., purple (one of the Union colours) in Ramie would make up most effectively. This vegetable fibre material, be it remembered, washes well and needs no starching. The dainty sun-bonnets, worn for motoring or in the country, must have special mention; as far as possible the old-fashioned muslins are used, and the designs for the drawn brims are copied from Scotland, Yorkshire, and other rural districts. These bonnets, also made for children, are run on a string at the back, so that washing is simplicity itself. The strong overalls for children on their holidays will delight the heart of the mother or nurse in charge of small people with tree-climbing propensities. All prices are reduced during August.

Another firm now selling at reduced prices is Thelma's. Here cotton frocks are a speciality, as well as Parisian bonnets and hats, and dressmaking in all branches is now undertaken by Madame Thelma and her sister. Ladies can have their own materials made up at an extremely moderate cost during the continuance of the sale. The address is 59, Southampton-row, W.C.

Miss Folkard, 3, Hill's-place, Oxford-circus, who is so successful with tea-gowns, &c., also makes up ladies' own materials during the slack seasons—viz., September, January, and February. Artistic style suitable for individual wearers is a special point with Miss Folkard.

A LOSS TO THE MOVEMENT.

We regret to record the death of one of our members and sincere friends, Mrs. Head, a member of the N.W.S.P.V. and the Bowes Park Local Union, who passed away last Thursday.

Prior to joining the Union, a few months back, Mrs. Head was prominently connected with the Wood Green Women's Liberal Association, but, after long consideration, came to the painful conviction that she must sacrifice party to principle, and did so publicly at the annual meeting of her association. On Thursday last, while she was on her way to a prize-giving at the Poor Law Schools in Enfield, she was taken ill, and died a few minutes after admission to the Cottage Hospital. She was one of the best workers of the Union in every form of activity, and had arranged to be one of the stewards at the Earl's Court Demonstration. She organised many drawing-room and garden meetings, and had arranged one for the very day on which her funeral took place. She was buried on Tuesday last. A wreath of flowers was sent from the members of the Bowes Park Union, and another from 4, Clements Inn, in loving memory of her friendship and services to the Union.

ROSSENDALE VALLEY CAMPAIGN.

We are still making progress in Rossendale Valley. During the past week we have held very successful meetings. The men voters are very anxious that we should get petition sheets, demanding that their member, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, should withdraw his opposition to woman's suffrage, and they promise us they will be able to fill the sheets with signatures of voters only. At present we are busy working up the demonstration to be held in Rossendale Valley September 6, when we shall have Mrs. Pankhurst and several others to speak. Great enthusiasm is being shown, and we are anticipating a very good time.

Last Thursday we went to Warrington on the occasion of Mr. Sidney Buxton's visit to the town for the purpose of opening a new post-office.

In order to prevent the disturbance which threatened, Mr. Sydney Buxton expressed a wish to receive a deputation of two to wait on him. We accordingly went to see him, and expressed our views. Mr. Buxton wished us to understand that he personally was in favour of votes for women, and that our method of breaking up meetings was distressful to him. We explained that as our opposition was against the Cabinet as a whole, we could not separate the responsibility of individual members, and that our agitation must continue.

On Friday we went to Newton Heath. We were told it was the largest meeting ever held there. A good collection was taken, and all literature sold. We were all delighted with the interest shown in the Leeds demonstration. Great credit is due to Miss Adela Pankhurst for the way in which it had been organised. We left Leeds, and arrived in Huddersfield about 9 p.m. Having to wait an hour for a connection to take us to our destination, we went outside the station, and found crowds of people just dispersing from a Socialist meeting. Several people recognised us, and asked us to hold a meeting. Thinking the opportunity was too good to lose, we started once again with our good old war cry, "Votes for Women." We at last had a very large audience, and finished up by answering several questions, feeling satisfied with our day's work.

(MRS.) JENNIE BAINES.

(MISS) GERTRUDE H. BROOK.

MEMBERS' PLEDGE CARD.

WOMEN in all parts of the country who are not as yet definitely enrolled as members of the National Women's Social and Political Union are invited to sign the members' pledge card, which they can obtain from the offices, 4, Clements Inn, and apply for membership. The pledge is as follows:—

I endorse the objects and methods of the Women's Social and Political Union, and I hereby undertake not to support the candidate of any political party at Parliamentary elections until women have obtained the Parliamentary vote.

There is an entrance fee of 1s. No definite subscription is fixed, as it is known that all members will give to the full extent of their ability to further the campaign funds of the Union.

DEMONSTRATION IN LEEDS.

Sunday, July 26, was the scene of a great demonstration on Woodhouse Moor, when a hundred thousand people gathered round ten platforms to hear the statement of the Women's claim for the vote. Among the speakers were Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Gawthorpe, Miss Adela Pankhurst, and Miss Keevil.

A procession had been formed outside the Town Hall, which marched, with banners flying and drums beating to the Moor. The audience were exceedingly enthusiastic, the only questions asked being as to what manner they could show their practical sympathy with the women's cause. One man suggested that a voters' petition should be got up to the local member, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, urging him to take the question up and carry it through to a successful issue. This was heartily responded to by the audience.

The resolution calling for sympathy with the women in prison, and urging upon the Government to give the vote to women without delay, was carried almost unanimously from the whole of the ten platforms. Below we reproduce extracts from leading local papers describing the gathering:—

"THE YORKSHIRE POST."

The forces of the National Women's Social and Political Union in Yorkshire concentrated upon Leeds yesterday for the purpose of holding a demonstration on Woodhouse Moor. The Moor is famed for the public gatherings that have been held upon it from time to time, and the attendance secured by the Suffragettes yesterday will certainly place the day's happenings upon the record of such gatherings. It was the somewhat ambitious hope of the Union to treble the numbers reached in 1884, when 50,000 men assembled on the Moor to voice their claim for the county franchise; but, while this was not achieved, the attendance exceeded by many thousands the numbers present on the occasion of the licensing demonstration a few days ago.

The proceedings commenced in Victoria-square, where a lengthy procession was marshalled. Among those present were Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss A. Kenney, Miss Mary E. Gawthorpe, and Mrs. Baines, and these ladies occupied positions on decorated waggons. The procession largely consisted of members from local branches of the Union, who marched under their own banners, one of which proclaimed "Through thick and thin when we begin," a sentiment which conveyed in a few words the whole tone of the subsequent speeches. Thus, with banners gaily fluttering, and accompanied by brass bands, the Suffragettes and their supporters proceeded to Woodhouse Moor, where a great gathering of people awaited their arrival. Upon gaining the Moor the waggons, which numbered ten in all, were drawn up in various positions, and formed convenient platforms, from which the speakers addressed the crowd. It is doubtful whether the majority of those present were attracted so much by the subject of the demonstration, as by the prospect of a disturbance, for there was a large proportion of young persons of both sexes in the crowd. To such, however, the afternoon would prove disappointing, for the proceedings were remarkably orderly, and afforded a great contrast to what has occurred in other places. True, there were a few rowdy spirits abroad, but so great was the crush that they could make but little impression, and soon tired in their efforts to create a diversion.

The speaker to commence first was Miss A. Pankhurst, and for an hour and a-quarter she held the attention of a large audience, to whom she expounded the aims and aspirations of the movement. Here as elsewhere, there was little interruption, and a patient hearing was also given Miss Gawthorpe. From each platform a resolution was put, asking for the sympathy of those present for the Suffragettes imprisoned in Holloway, and calling upon the Government to at once extend the franchise to duly qualified women. The resolution was carried on a show of hands, thus bringing to an end a demonstration the success of which must have been very pleasing to the promoters.

"THE BRADFORD OBSERVER."

The Suffragettes had a field-day in Leeds yesterday. Mrs. Pankhurst, with her lieutenants and sub-lieutenants, descended on Vic-

toria-square, while yet ordinary people were but slowly recovering from the lassitude which follows on a good old Yorkshire Sunday dinner. And there in front of the Town Hall, with banners flying, and bands playing, a procession was formed, and the force marched on Woodhouse Moor, where they were "at home" to one of the biggest crowds seen there for some years. All the youth of Leeds seemed to have gathered on the Moor in the expectation of some fun, and they certainly seemed to enjoy the proceedings very much, although on the whole the crowd was very orderly. The police had not a very arduous time, for only in one or two instances were they called upon to interfere to preserve order. There were ten platforms in all, and around each there was a very big gathering, while dotted all over the ground were little groups of people reposing lazily on the grass and passing sarcastic comments on those who had disturbed the comparative quietude which they are wont to enjoy on the Sabbath afternoon.

"THE LEEDS MERCURY."

There was no serious disturbance. Here and there one or two noisy spirits elbowed their way into the crowd and ventured upon an occasional interruption. In one instance, too, a man proceeded from reviling the Suffragettes to reviling women in general, with the result that he was made to beat a speedy retreat by means of chaff, mingled with the more substantial persuasion of sods.

Miss Gladice Keevil said they did not want the Liberal party to be deprived of power, because they looked to the Liberals to give them the vote. What they were doing was to shake the party, just as a mother might shake a naughty child.

Mrs. Pankhurst was as clever as usual in dealing with questions. The adult Suffragist meets with scant consideration at her hands. One such was told that if he was sincere he would not use his vote until his wife got one. They were not going to wait until everybody could have the vote. Man wanted women to pull some more chestnuts out of the fire for him.

As for a programme, said Mrs. Pankhurst, they were political dark horses, and they were not going to declare any programme until they could vote on one.

THE LANCASHIRE CAMPAIGN.

The great demonstration in Heaton Park is over, but feeling—active feeling—in favour of "Votes for Women" grows by leaps and bounds. Special visits have been paid during the last week to Suburbia, and excellent meetings have been held in the Higher Crumpsall, Withington, and Levenshulme districts; whilst Seedley kept up its reputation by a record attendance and a record collection. Meetings have also been held in Lower Crumpsall and Old Trafford, and it is intended to keep all these centres actively alive, Manchester members becoming daily more efficient in this direction.

Manchester has certainly been won; now it must be kept.

Members of the Manchester Union also helped during the week in carrying out a protest arranged by Mrs. Baines and Miss Brooks on the occasion of the Postmaster-General's visit to Warrington, which is described elsewhere.

The great demonstration at Earl's Court on Saturday, and at Woodhouse Moor, Leeds, on Sunday, far away from the centres of activity just mentioned, only serve to point out the phenomenal strides the movement is making everywhere.

At Earl's Court, the trippers, on pleasure bent, were equally enthusiastic with the already converted hearers; and at Leeds, where quite 150,000 people assembled, and many thousands marched in the procession, the sight was one long to be remembered.

Next week the special features of continued activity will be a meeting kindly arranged by Miss Godson at Cheadle, and an "at home" and general rally of the workers who helped so largely to contribute to the success of the recent demonstration in Heaton Park.

The holiday season being upon us (so far as the general public is concerned), members will be recouping their energies for the great things in preparation for the autumn session.

Everything must be done which will compel the Government to provide for the settlement of this question among other autumn proposals.

MARY E. GAWTHORPE.

LOCAL NOTES.

In view of the fact that next Monday is Bank Holiday, all Contributions intended for insertion in next week's issue should reach us by post on Saturday Morning (August 1).

Barnes W.S.P.U.—At our weekly public meeting, on July 22, on Barnes Green, Miss Higgins gave an interesting account of her by-election work in Pembrokeshire. The audience was large and attentive, and cheered her enthusiastically at the termination of her address.

S. A. WILSON HORN.

Chelsea W.S.P.U.—Mr. Horniman's question on behalf of our prisoners was unavoidably postponed until Wednesday, July 22. The answer he received from the Home Secretary was: "I see no sufficient reason for interference on behalf of these ladies, who can bring their terms of imprisonment to an end at any moment, and, as I have already said, I think it would be unconstitutional for me to advise the use of the Royal prerogative for that purpose." On Monday the open-air meeting in Sloane-square was so large, and so many questions were asked, that we decided to hold another on the following Friday, which also was a great success. Miss Naylor, Miss Winifred Auld, and Miss Bromley were the speakers. The crowd was closely packed as far as the speakers' voices could reach, and hundreds of leaflets were distributed. Other meetings were held at World's End, Luna-street, East Hill, and Chelsea Common. The open-air meetings and Friday "At Homes" will be discontinued until September. Dates will be announced in VOTES FOR WOMEN.

CHARLOTTE BLACKLOCK (Assistant Sec.).

Hammersmith W.S.P.U.—Last week was a busy one for Hammersmith. Parties were out early in the morning chalking the pavements to advertise the Earl's Court Demonstration. Afternoons and evenings were devoted to the distribution of handbills, and the selling of our newspaper. On Wednesday evening, July 22, an open-air meeting was held in the Grove, Hammersmith. Miss Mackay took the chair, and Miss Naylor was the chief speaker. Our next open-air meeting will be held on Wednesday, 29th, at the corner of Shepherd's Bush Railway Approach, 7 p.m., when Miss Brackenbury will be the speaker. We would like again to remind our friends that we are collecting parcels for a rummage sale to help financially. Kindly forward old articles to the secretary, W.S.P.U., care of Miss Haarblicher, 32, Phoenix Lodge Mansions, Brook Green. Any old hats, pieces of lace, boots, clothing, bedding, old furniture, anything, please send them along.

S. C. CULLEN (Assistant Sec.).

London City W.S.P.U.—One of our members, Miss Winifred Auld, held a very successful meeting on Hampstead Heath (Parliament Hill Fields), last Sunday, July 26, at 6 o'clock, Dr. Rose taking the chair. Forty-one copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold, and in response to numerous requests from the audience, a similar meeting has been arranged for Sunday, August 9, at 5.30. Will members who can help in any way kindly communicate with Miss Winifred Auld, 19, Cranhurst-road, Cricklewood. I am very glad to be able to report that the debt on the banner is entirely cleared off.

H. R. KERR (Sec. pro tem.).

Lewisham W.S.P.U.—Last week was spent in advertising the Earl's Court Demonstration. We held two meetings on Tuesday, one in Catford and one near Lewisham junction, where Miss W. Auld and I spoke. Thirty VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold and many handbills distributed. On Friday we had again two meetings, one in Lee Green and one in Greenwich, Miss Nancy Lightman being the speaker. In Greenwich we had a very large and interested audience, and many sensible questions were asked, and were admirably answered by Miss N. Lightman. Stencilling the Earl's Court was done, and the reading-rooms of clubs and institutions were supplied with handbills. On Sunday Miss Joan Dugdale spoke on Blackheath, where we had a large and very orderly and attentive audience. Thirty-one VOTES FOR WOMEN were sold. A very good report of Miss C. Pankhurst's and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's speeches at our reception of July 17 appeared last Friday in the "Lewisham Borough News," the editor and his wife having been present on that occasion.

J. A. BOUVIER.

Manchester W.S.P.U.—On Tuesday we held an open-air meeting at Harpurhey, where, in spite of some noisy boys, we had a successful meeting. On Wednesday we held our Union meet-

ing, and on Thursday night our weekly gathering in Stevenson-square was as pleasant and enthusiastic as usual. On Friday Miss Drummond and I held a fine open-air meeting at Withington, where we sold 75 copies of VOTES FOR WOMEN in a few minutes. Miss Rosa Robinson, our captain of the Votes for Women Brigade, is working hard to push the sale of our paper. On Saturday our garden party was held at "Ellerslie," Victoria Park, when, in spite of occasional showers, a happy time was spent. Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy addressed those present in the drawing-room, and by sketching the history of the women's suffrage movement showed how our militant tactics came to be absolutely necessary to make our agitation a living movement. She also showed how much work lies before the women of Britain after the vote is won before they can make men and women equal before the law of the land. Some friends gave a fine dramatic performance, and we were also indebted to musical friends for one or two splendid concerts. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Heath for enlisting the services of professional friends, and to Miss Ratcliffe, who played the accompaniments, and helped Miss Drummond to arrange the programmes. The arrangements were well carried through by Miss Saunders and Miss Capper. The literature stall did a good trade. Mrs. Baines and Miss Brook were among the guests, and beckled those who delivered the anti-Suffragette speeches in our competition very realistically.

ANNOT E. ROBINSON.

The Chiswick branch of the I.L.P., at a special meeting, passed a resolution of sympathy with the Suffragists now serving their term of imprisonment at Holloway, and expressed its appreciation of their courageous and noble fight.

WEST OF ENGLAND CAMPAIGN.

Shop and Committee Room: 53, Queen Road (opposite Art Gallery), Clifton. Open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We have had a most successful week in Bristol. Our "At Home" last Monday was a great success, both in numbers and in finance. We had a glorious meeting in St. George's Park, about 2,000 people present.

The shop and committee rooms are open. We have been lucky enough to get a shop in the main street in the best part of the town. There are two front windows. We have a list of all our meetings in one window, and in the other the big photo of Mrs. Pankhurst in the centre. In the glass door we have our VOTES FOR WOMEN poster. We show our pamphlets and books, and display our colours and scarves, ties, ribbons, &c., in the big window.

Inside we have our banners and our literature beautifully set out on nice shelves round the shop. This shop is more expensive than the one we thought of taking, but the splendid position in the city compensates us for the extra cost.

Now I want more money. There must be many people in the West of England, and in Bristol especially, who are prepared to help us in the great work we have before us. Really, the least thing people can do in this great and glorious movement is to give money, and to help those who are prepared to do the work. My appeal last week was not in vain. I have sent to the treasurer £30 this week, besides collection money. Mrs. Garnett gave £25, Miss Maud Gibson £5, Mrs. Leach £1, Mrs. Ashworth £3 3s., Mrs. Hermon £1. Now I feel I ought to be able to send her money every week. Nothing would make me happier than to feel that people in the West of England are prepared to support me while I stay in this part of the country.

We shall be at a big expense to make this campaign a success. Everything costs money, so give your money. We will give service, and get scores of others to do the same.

I have got permission to have a band on the Downs on our big day, and we want someone to volunteer to pay for one of the best bands in Bristol.

The Chief Constable and his men are very good indeed, and at every meeting held they are there to help to keep order.

Miss St. John and Miss Blathwayt are the ones who have done the decorating of the shop. We are getting real, good, earnest workers, though we have only been here just over a week. Anyone sending money to the treasurer should mark it "West of England Campaign"; then we shall be able to say how much we get every week. On Mondays we have our "At Homes" at the Hannah More Hall, Park-street. I hope Bristol people will visit our shop, and send friends.

ANNIE KENNEY.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE £20,000 FUND.

July 22 to July 28.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	14	9	Mrs. F. Fleming	2	0
Miss Turnbull	0	10	W. Slade, Esq. (Hyde Park)	1	0
Miss E. F. Maynard	0	5	Miss C. E. Mordan	260	0
Mrs. E. Pollerfen	20	0	Battersea, per Miss		
Miss L. Talbot	1	1	Cameron	0	5
Miss Mary George	1	0	Mrs. M. E. Squire	2	4
Miss Marjot Talbot	1	0	Mrs. S. Browne	0	10
H. W. Nevins, Esq.	2	3	V. de Souza, Esq.	1	0
Mrs. K. S. West	1	1	Mrs. Macdonald	3	0
Mrs. E. Diplock	1	0	Mrs. F. Richards	2	10
Miss J. Gibson	5	0	Anon.	1	0
Miss A. Heald	3	3	S. Lorignol, Esq.	1	2
The Misses C. and E.			The Misses M. and E.		
Mackenzie	30	0	Weizier Colt	5	0
Mrs. E. Lowy	20	0	R. E. F.	0	2
Mrs. Chas. Bonham	1	0	Miss Christabel Miller	0	8
Miss G. E. Llewellyn	1	1	H. Overett, Esq.	0	2
Mrs. B. Hartley	2	2	Miss M. Aves	0	2
The Misses Beck	2	0	Mrs. M. Taylor	100	0
Miss I. Logan	5	0	Mrs. M. M. Falk	0	10
Miss M. M. Gibson (for			Miss J. Dallas	2	2
Bristol Demonstration)	5	0	Miss M. P. Smith	0	3
Miss Henry	0	10	Miss Hodge	0	5
Anon.	0	10	Mrs. E. Gillingham	0	10
Mrs. M. Tuke	4	0	Mrs. W. Marshall	2	2
Miss M. Dickson	0	10	Miss Forsyth (By-election)	1	1
Mrs. E. G. Fenwick (Hyde			Miss J. D. Kippen (By-		
Park banner)	0	18	election)	10	0
Mrs. M. A. Hughes	1	1	Mrs. Corben (By-election)	1	0
Mrs. Winterne	0	10	Mrs. J. Stannard (By-elec-		
Lady Sybil Smith	1	0	tion)	10	0
Kenington W.S.P.U. (ban-			Miss J. G. Green (By-elec-		
ner poles, &c.)	1	10	tion)	13	13
Miss F. M. Stange	0	10	The Misses Collier (By-elec-		
Miss L. Henderson	0	10	tion)	1	0
Miss E. M. Pethick	20	0	A Friend from Chicago (By-		
Miss L. Richter	1	0	election)	0	10
Mrs. H. Thimn	0	10	Mrs. Spang (By-election)	0	10
Miss E. B. Godet	2	0	Miss C. Massey (By-election)	1	0
Miss F. Kemp Furdor	0	5	Hon. Lady Decies (By-elec-		
Mrs. Best	1	1	tion)	1	0
Miss D. Spang	1	0	C. W. (By-election)	1	0
Miss B. Robins	5	0	Anon. (for By-election)	3	0
Mrs. J. A. East	0	3	F. Sheehy-Skeffington, Esq.		
Miss H. Webb, M.B.	5	0	(By-election)	0	10
— Jones, Esq.	0	2	Miss Llewellyn (By-election)	1	1
Mrs. Kennedy	0	11	Mrs. J. Bailie Guthrie (By-		
Mrs. Twining	1	1	election)	2	2
Miss E. Stead	0	5	Mrs. Bull (By-election)	1	1
Miss F. White	0	10	Mrs. Gillett (By-election)	1	1
Mrs. Dove-Wilcox	0	5	Rev. W. H. Paine (By-elec-		
Mrs. E. Garnett (to Miss A.			tion)	1	1
Kennedy for Bristol cam-			The Misses Beck (By-elec-		
paign)	25	0	tion)	1	0
Anon.	5	5	A. S. Dugdale, Esq. (By-		
Mrs. Stanley Mappin	1	0	election)	1	0
H. B. Silver, Esq.	1	1	Miss J. Dugdale	1	0
Miss M. Timm (sale of			Lady Knayett (for By-elec-		
d'oyles)	0	5	tion)	10	0
Mrs. T. Fleher	0	10	Self-Denial Stall (articles		
Mrs. N. H. Thomas	0	10	sold)	0	3
Miss M. Home	1	0	Small Contribution at Stall		
Mrs. H. H. Kenyon	5	0	at Earl's Court	0	9
Miss C. Dean Corbett	0	10	Membership Postage Fers.	2	3
Mrs. K. M. Higgins	1	3	Collections, &c.	44	17
Miss S. Andjah	2	0			
Mrs. K. S. Tanner	0	5			

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LEICESTER DEMONSTRATION.

The people of Leicester are looking forward to the Votes for Women Demonstration, which is to take place on Thursday, July 30, in the Market-square.

Owing to the by-election at Haggerston, some change in the originally announced list of speakers has been necessary. The following is the corrected list of speakers from the five platforms:—Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Nell Kenney, Mrs. Baines, and Miss Brook.

On Monday evening Mrs. Hawkins and myself addressed a large gathering in the Market-square; they became very sympathetic towards the close of the meeting, and expressed pleasure that a demonstration was to be held in their own town.

The apathy and indifference which I was told on all hands existed I have not yet come across. Every night we have addressed increasingly large audiences, and are constantly being asked where the next meeting is to be held. This week Miss Nell Kenney is joining me, so that now we shall be able to hold four meetings each day, two at the factory gates in the dinner-hour and two in the evening. With the help of local members, large quantities of handbills are being distributed. Mrs. Barnes, Miss Close, and Miss Clarke have become speakers under the stress of demonstration work.

We are confident that Thursday's event will add to the list of successful demonstrations held throughout the country.

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An Amusing Letter.

A short while ago the hon. secretary of the N.W.S.P.U. wrote to a woman enclosing a copy of VOTES FOR WOMEN. A few days later the following communication was received from the husband:—

SIR,—I return your letter and paper. I consider it great impertinence on the part of your organisation to forward your pernicious literature to any married woman without having first ascertained the views of her husband on the question.

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References:—The Countess of Mayo, Lady de Rothschild, The Lady Battersea, Leopold de Rothschild, Esq., Messrs. Davies & Sons, Solicitors.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

Up to August 15 (as far as at present arranged).

July	London, Portman Rooms, "At Home"	Mr. Pethick Lawrence	8 p.m.
Thur. 30	Haggerston, Women's Meeting, Scawfell Street School	Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, and others	3 p.m.
	Haggerston, Open Air Meetings, Ridley Street, Downham Road, Haggerston Road	Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, and others	7.30 p.m.
	Kensington, Argyll Road, Open Air Meeting	Miss Brackenbury, Miss Macaulay	5.45 p.m.
	Kensington, King Street, Open Air Meeting	Miss Evelyn Sharp	7 p.m.
	Leicester, Demonstration, Market Place	Miss Mary Gawthorpe, Miss Adela Pankhurst, Mrs. Baines, Miss Nell Kenney, Miss Gladice Keevil, Miss Brook, and others	7 p.m.
	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 31	Holloway, Release of the Prisoners	...	8 a.m.
	Queen's Hall, Complimentary Breakfast, Tickets, 2s.	...	9.15 a.m.
	Released Prisoners and Members of W.S.P.U. Procession to Haggerston
	Haggerston, Women's Meeting, Scawfell Street School	Mrs. Pankhurst, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, Miss N. Lightman, and others	3 p.m.
	Haggerston, Open Air Meetings, Ridley Street, Downham Road, Haggerston Road	Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, Miss Brae, and others	7.30 p.m.
	Bristol, Broad Quay, Tramway Centre	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
	Aston, Witton Road	Dr. Jones, Miss Hazel, Mrs. Bessie Smith	7.30 p.m.
Aug.			
Sat. 1	Haggerston, Polling Day Clevedon Sands	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Wed. 5	Bristol, Harfield, Park, Stapleton	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
	Barnes Green	Miss Evelyn Sharpe	8 p.m.
Thur. 6	Clifton, Durdham Downs	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 7	Bristol, Broad Quay	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 8	Portsmouth	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
	Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath	Dr. Rose, Miss W. Ould	5.30 p.m.
Mon. 10	Clifton, Hannah More Hall, Park Street, "At Home"	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	4-6
Tues. 11	Bristol	Miss Annie Kenney	...
Wed. 12	Bristol, Victoria Park, Windmill Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Thur. 13	Clifton, Durdham Downs, Blackboy Hill	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Fri. 14	Bristol, Broad Quay, Tramway Centre	Miss Annie Kenney, Miss Dorothy Pethick	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 15	Bath, Eagle House, Bathaston. Garden Party, by Mrs. and Miss Blathwayt	Miss Annie Kenney	4-6

IMPORTANT FUTURE EVENTS.

Bristol, Clifton Downs (Demonstration) Sept. 19
 London, Albert Hall (Meeting) Oct. 29

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